

MYP Mathematics at VSA

General Background

Structure

Students take 5 (50 minute) lessons of maths per week in Years 6 to 10. In Years 6 to 8, students are taught within their homeroom classes. In Years 9 and 10 students are grouped according to ability, with the more able students following the Extended Maths course and the less able following the Standard Maths course.

Briefly, the Extended/Standard maths “divide” has been constructed in a similar fashion to the HL/SL divide in the Diploma Programme. That is, the Standard Course is a subset of the Extended Course. The Extended course goes a little further, deeper and faster. We line our units up together (with the same unit question and similar resources at our disposal), and assessments are taken at the same time. As can be seen, the Extended assessments are generally more challenging than the Standard ones, but they are structurally very similar.

For this year’s cohort we have three Extended Maths groups and two Standard Maths groups.

We introduced the Extended/Standard divide nearly two years ago, so this is the first cohort to present work in the two levels (previously the whole school was submitted for Standard Mathematics, despite comments from moderators indicating that much of the material we were exposing students to could be categorized as Extended).

The Sample for Standard Maths

At the start of the school year we were informed that we would have to submit 4 (rather than the previous 8). At the beginning of the year, we chose the four students below who we would track throughout the year.

	Student	Note
Strong	Kristy FUNG	Kristy started off quite strongly, but struggled in recent months. Kristy is a language B student.
Average	Tasha CASBERG	Tasha is a Language A English student.
	Andrew LAU	Andrew is a Language A English student.
Weak	Joshua HUI	Joshua gets some help from the Learning Support team in the school, but nothing specific in the Maths arena. Joshua is a language B student.